IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

STENTIFORD Atty. Ref.: **36-1570**

Serial No. **Unknown** Group:

Filed: **October 16, 2001** Examiner:

For: **VISUAL ATTENTION SYSTEM**

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October 16, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in order to place the above identified

application in better condition for examination, please amend as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, before numbered line 3 (first line of text), insert the following new

paragraph:

-- CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation-in-part of my prior co-pending applications

PCT/GB01/00504 filed February 8, 2001 and PCT/GB01/03802 filed August 22,

2001. --.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims

previously presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is

attached.

3. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of test pixels are analysed concurrently.

4. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of comparison pixels are compared with a given test pixel concurrently.

5. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the value is a three-element vector representative of a colour.

6. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein in addition to neighbour groups, further variable search parameters are selected.

8. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, the method including the step of storing values for search parameters for which a high anomaly value has been generated, and selecting, for subsequent test pixels, the same search parameters.

9. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the principal subject in a visual scene is identified by identification of the region containing pixels having the greatest anomaly values

10. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein a measure of visual attention afforded to a given object in a visual scene is determined by comparison of the anomaly values generated for the pixels representing that object with the anomaly values generated for other parts of the scene.

14. (Amended) A computer programmed to perform the method of claim 1.

15. (Amended) A computer program product directly loadable into the internal memory of a digital computer, comprising software code portions for performing the steps of claim 1 when said product is run on a computer.

20. (Amended) A method according to Claim 18 in which the test group and the

or each comparison group includes at least one additional picture element.
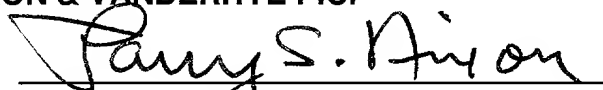
REMARKS

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the

current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show**

changes made."

The above amendments are made to include cross reference to related

applications and to place the claims in a more traditional format.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____
Larry S. Nixon
Reg. No. **25,640**

LSN:lmy

1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

3. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 [or 2], wherein a plurality of test pixels are analysed concurrently.

4. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, [2 or 3] wherein a plurality of comparison pixels are compared with a given test pixel concurrently.

5. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, [2, 3 or 4,] wherein the value is a three-element vector representative of a colour.

6. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, [2, 3, 4 or 5] wherein in addition to neighbour groups, further variable search parameters are selected.

8. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, [2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7,] the method including the step of storing values for search parameters for which a high anomaly value has been generated, and selecting, for subsequent test pixels, the same search parameters.

9. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, [2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8,] wherein the principal subject in a visual scene is identified by identification of the region containing pixels having the greatest anomaly values

10. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, [2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8,] wherein a measure of visual attention afforded to a given object in a visual scene is determined by comparison of the anomaly values generated for the pixels representing that object with the anomaly values generated for other parts of the scene.

14. (Amended) A computer programmed to perform the method of [any of claims 1 to 13] claim 1.

15. (Amended) A computer program product directly loadable into the internal memory of a digital computer, comprising software code portions for performing the steps of [any of claims 1 to 13] claim 1 when said product is run on a computer.

20. (Amended) A method according to Claim 18 [or 19] in which the test group and the or each comparison group includes at least one additional picture element.